Amendment No. 1 to SB2460

<u>Gresham</u> Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2460

House Bill No. 2295*

by deleting all language after the caption clause and substituting instead the following language:

WHEREAS, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, more women enroll in higher education than men, yet there are fewer women enrolled in STEM related majors; and

WHEREAS, there are growing concerns about the value and need for highly trained scientists and engineers; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for women to take leadership positions in companies that specialize in STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, there are twice as many men enrolled in STEM programs as women; and WHEREAS, women comprise almost sixty percent (60%) of today's college attendees, yet women only make up one quarter of STEM related jobs; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to encourage Tennessee's bright, young, women to pursue STEM related fields, should they so desire; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks below the national average in percentage of college degrees and certificates awarded in STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one percent (61%) of Tennessee's first-time community college students need remediation in math; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of degrees and certificates conferred in STEM fields to women has declined throughout the previous decade; and

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WHEREAS, in Tennessee, STEM skills have stayed in demand even through the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has gone to great lengths to promote the importance of Tennessee's youth to pursue a degree in higher education in order to better prepare our students for the jobs of the future, many of which are in STEM related fields; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The month of August shall be designated "Women in STEM" month to raise awareness of the opportunities for women to pursue a career in a STEM related field.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.